there is a shortage of forensic science experts in the country which often results in incomplete investigations into many medico-legal cases; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the removal of this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There is no definite information about the shortage of forensic science experts in the country, resulting in incomeplete investigations into many medico-legal cases.

(b) The Medical Council of India have reported that forensic medicine is included in the undergraduate curriculum and about 15 universities are recognised by the Council for award of Postgraduate degrees of M.D. Diploma in forensic Medicine. The Council has also given permission for starting of Post-graduate Degree/Diploma in forensic medicine to about 18 medical institutions in the country.

Accidents at the unmanned railway crossings

2591. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unmanned level crossings in the country, State-wise, and those converted into manned crossings during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of persons are killed or injured by trains every year at unmanned level crossings;

(c) if so, what is the number of accident and the persons killed and injured thereby during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what is the amount of compensation paid to each person killed and by when the ailways propose to convert all these level crossings into manned ones or introduce suitable safety measures, to avoid deaths?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The number of unmanned level crossings, Statewise, is as follows:

State/Union Territory	No. unmanned LCs as on 31-3-87
Assam	596
Andhra Pradesh	1,648
Bihar	1,752
Gujarat	3,407
Haryana	355
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu & Kashmir	18
Karnataka	1,103
Kerala	170
Madhya Pradesh	1,720
Maharashtra	1,21[illegible]
Orissa	98[illegible]
Punjab	94
Rajasthan	1,66
Tamil Nadu	1,52
Tripura	
Uttar Pradesh	2,70
West Bengal	1,5[illegible]
Delhi	
Goa	
Pondicherry	
Chandigarh	

The number of unmanned level crossings converted into manned crossings during last three years is as folows:

1985-86	1986-87	1987-
222	97	47

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Number of accidents at unmanned level crossings during the last 3 years and the number of persons killed and injured is as under:—

Year	No. of accidents at unmanned level crossings	No. of casualties		
		Killed	Injured	Total
1985-86	40	54	153	207
1986-87	46	95	189	284
1987-88	41	54	87	141

(d) No compensation is payable in the case of accidents to the road users at an unmanned level crossing under the Indian Railways Act.

The Railways have so far been following the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings where the volume of traffic or other special features justify manning. However, based on the practices obtaining in other advanced countries, Indian Railways are presently contemplating the provision of a solar-powered, radio-operated, automatic audio-visual warning system actuated by the approaching train to caution the road users well in advance. This system, which will minimise the need for manning of unmanned level crossings, is now under trial.

Introduction of cold storage on the rail

2592. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of introducing cold storage on the rail' to carry fruits, vegetables, fish and other perishable goods so as to encourage the growers to produce more and the consumers get the best at reasonable price; and

(b) what are the existing facilities available with the Railways in this regard and what would be the projected increase in the traffic by introduction of the said moving cold storages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few refrigerated vans were manufactured in the past for transportation of perishable items but the same were not sufficiently patronised. Therefore, the prospects of this traffic is negligible.

At present only 3 refrigerated vans are available with the Railways.

Seminar on Child Abuse

2593. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on Child Abuse was held in Delhi during the third week of June 1988;

(b) if so, what are the names of the participants in this seminar;

(c) what is the nature of discussion held; and